

THE NATIONAL REGISTER.

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NEUTRALITY OF THE UNITED STATES.

Last week (Friday) the House of Representatives, in committee of the whole, entered into the consideration of the bill "to prevent citizens of the United States from selling vessels of war to the citizens or subjects of any foreign power," &c. In order to describe the character and contemplated operation of that bill, it may be well to mention the existing law on the subject. In 1794, when the minister of France was issuing commissions to American citizens, our government, at the instance of Mr. Liston, the British minister then resident here, passed a law forbidding, under heavy penalties, the acceptance of commissions, by citizens of these States, from any foreign powers, or enlisting, or causing others to enlist, in foreign service; or fitting out armed vessels, issuing commissions for such, or augmenting, "within the waters of the United States," the force of any armed vessels belonging to a belligerent in regard to whom we then were neutral; also from setting on foot, within the United States, military expeditions to be sent against any friendly nation; and that the land and naval force of this government might be employed to enforce those regulations, &c. In 1797 this act was amended by another, that went to prohibit "citizens of the United States, without the limits thereof," from fitting out armed vessels to cruise against friendly powers. In these acts there was this defect, that they did not go to prohibit United States citizens from building and equipping war vessels, and selling them to foreigners who might take them out of our waters, and use them: that is, an American citizen and a foreigner might legally do, in partnership, those acts which neither of them could do alone.

Thus stands the law at present: and the act under consideration is to supply that defect, by the first section, which provides a penalty of \$10,000 on any who may fit, or be concerned in fitting, or arming any private vessel of war with the intent, or previous knowledge, that such vessel is to be employed in cruising or committing hostilities, &c. There is a second section, authorizing the executive to interfere when, according to his discretion, there may be reason to believe that measures are in operation to evade the law; a third section—and the most objectionable, is as follows:

"And be it further enacted, That the collectors of the customs be, and they are hereby respectively authorized to detain any vessel bound from

the United States, whenever the cargo on board shall principally consist of arms and munitions of war, and when, from the number of men shipped on board, or from any other circumstance, it is their opinion that there is an intention to violate the neutral obligations of the United States to foreign governments, until the decision of the President be had thereupon, or until the owner enters into bond and security, such as is required of the owners of armed vessels, by the second section of this act."

The bill met with opposition, chiefly on account of this last provision, from Messrs. Root, Wright of Md. Sharp, Robertson, and Clay, and was supported by Grosvenor, Smith of Md. Randolph, and Sheffey. In favour of the bill they urged the danger to be apprehended from a war with Spain; the loss of the best commercial customer which we have at present; the notorious illegality of the conduct of great numbers of Americans who were affording assistance to the revolted Spanish colonies: that our good-will for those engaged in the struggle, professed to be for liberty, ought not to influence us in the discussion of a measure of national justice—a good-will which those cautious advocates of that neutrality evidently did not feel—as they very cordially abused, at once, the character and the cause of the South-Americans, particularly Randolph—

"Stiff in opinion, always in the wrong,
Every thing by starts, and nothing long."

"It was a quarrel," said he, "in the name of liberty and religion, when servitude and superstition, the most dark and detestable that ever was known, were at the bottom of it." But the first of the arguments brought to operate on the subject was the fear of war. "I should be afraid of a war," said he, "with the Sandwich Islands; I should be afraid of a war with the Cherokees or Creeks; I should be afraid of a war with any thing unless, perchance, with the barbarians of the Mediterranean coast of Africa." We knew this well enough. He might have spared himself the degradation—and the country the imputation of cowardice that it seemed to convey. His profession of pusillanimity, so little in unison with the national spirit, and with honorable policy, was as revolting, as injurious to himself and his cause as it was unnecessary and irrelevant to the occasion.

"The bill before the house," said Mr. Randolph, "is a bill for making peace between his Catholic Majesty and the town of Baltimore. One advantage," he observed, "would result from allowing our citizens to go and fight the battles of the Spanish colonists; there would be fewer adventurers, and less capital, employed in the slave

trade." He acknowledged he had voted in favor of the non-intercourse bill in regard to St. Domingo; a measure demanded by Bonaparte; on whom he took this occasion to bestow the epithets of *hostis humani generis*, enemy of the human race; some of that *slang* which the hired writers of Great Britain have repeated until they are tired and ashamed of it. He admitted that our legislature went further, and that he went further with them, than justice or the laws of nations required; but it was because he considered that an anomalous case, and he felt disposed to do every thing that possibly could be done, to give the white population of that island an ascendancy over the blacks. Mr. Sheffey held that a regard for the condition of the colonists, when brought to operate on this question, did more honor to the head than to the heart of those who displayed it. He did not suppose that their acquirement of independence would be of any ultimate service to them. From their want of knowledge and principles, there would only result a long strife and bloodshed, that would settle down into a despotism more dark perhaps than that which heretofore prevailed there. Some of the supporters of the bill drew an absurd distinction between the species of neutrality that a neutral nation would be bound to maintain between two independent belligerents, and that proper in regard to a war between a nation and its colonies. Mr. Hopkinson, in favor of the bill, gave a very able and fair view of the subject, though we cannot but think some few unimportant points of his arguments exceptionable. He held that justice and policy demanded of us to maintain perfect neutrality in the present case. Any other course would be suffering piracy to disgrace the nation; would be to place ourselves on the same footing as the Buccaneering states of Barbary. This, as a general principle, seemed to be admitted on all hands: the difficulty was, to adopt provisions that might not subject the innocent to disadvantages, or occasion general inconvenience more than commensurate with the contemplated benefit of them. But this, like all other regulations, must operate as the sun shines, on the good and on the bad. Such had been the operation of all our other restrictive measures, and such belonged to the nature of things. If the party who complained of our partial proceedings was weak, it could not alter the justice of their demand. While we insist on our neutral rights, we should pay respect to those of other nations, or the evil example we exhibit might, in its future consequences, recoil on ourselves. He thought that the cases requiring the proposed precautionary measures were of a character so palpable that little mistake or oppression could occur in regard to them. Where vessels were sail-

ing out completely equipped, there could be no misapprehension as to their object; or, at least, if it was an innocent one, they could suffer nothing by giving a bond for their good behaviour.

He rejected the distinction attempted to be drawn by Mr. Randolph between a nation at war with her colonies and two independent nations at war. Our duty, said he, is a strict neutrality in all such cases. We must await the result; and then, if the colonies be subdued, the conqueror holds, as to us, the legitimate authority. He insisted upon a principle of difference as regarded trading in vessels of war, and trading in common munitions of war; which, for our part, we cannot recognize, though it may be sufficiently supported by the writers on public law. But the argument which we particularly dislike, and which was most strongly and most unanimously insisted upon by the friends of the bill, was, the danger of a war with Spain, which might result from suffering the present hostile acts of our citizens. With us the only rule for public measures is what justice requires when there is no neutral ground between justice and injustice on which to rest any question of expediency. We suppose it sufficient in every case to ascertain what is honest, and conclude that it is politic also; and besides, should consider it disgraceful in a nation, as it certainly would be in an individual, to say that one reason for not acting dishonorably was the fear of chastisement. So far from being an argument on our minds, it is only by rejecting such modes of arguing that we can bring ourselves to acquiesce in the necessity of the contemplated restrictions. If it were not an abstract question of duty, to be settled by the pure principles of justice, we would say that an opposite course ought to be pursued; and that humanity, magnanimity, compatriot sympathies and congenial fortunes called on us to offer, publicly and in a national capacity, the hand of succour to the South-American patriots: not to declare war against Spain, but firmly to meet it, or any other evil that might result from such an act of honest friendship. Weakness can be no excuse for meanness; but, under present circumstances, we cannot discover any claim that the South-Americans have on us for assistance, much as their condition may, and must, claim our good wishes; and the good wishes of all good men over the world.

Those who were against adopting the restrictive measures, urged the obligations which this country lay under to promote the cause of liberty and humanity; adverted to the hostile conduct of Spain towards us, which dissolved all our obligations to her; but the argument that particularly applied to the point in question was, that the bill under consideration went further than the law of

nations required as the extent of duty in a neutral. There could be no reason, nor policy, nor honor, in going further. They even contended that the existing law went further; and on that score was disgraceful to the nation; and that, at least, as it was dictated by the minister of a nation most tenacious of her rights, and even overbearing and ungenerous in her demands; and went to the full satisfaction of that nation in its adoption and in its operation, there could be now no reasons why we should further commit our national character by meeting the unlimited wishes of a despotic power that, in this case, required us to co-operate with her in the subjugation of her colonies.

DELAPLAINE'S REPOSITORY.

To the Editor of the *New-York Evening Post*.
Philadelphia, Jan. 14, 1817.

DEAR SIR,—I have received an interesting letter from Mr. Jefferson, and as his opinion of the Repository accords with yours, and as you have been kind enough to give your aid in the promotion of the work, I shall be happy, if you may see proper, that you would give it an insertion in the *Evening Post*.

With great respect and esteem, I am, dear sir, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH DELAPLAINE.

Monticello, Dec. 25, 1816.

DEAR SIR,—On my return from Bedford, after an absence of seven weeks, I found here your favor of the 23d of November, with a copy of the first number of your Repository. But I found also an immense accumulation of letters received during my absence, some of which claimed my first attentions. You know my aversion to the drudgery of the writing table. The great affliction of my present life is a too oppressive correspondence. It is wearing me down in body and mind; and leaves me scarcely a moment to attend to my affairs, or to indulge in the luxury of reading and reflection, which would soothe, as a balm, the decaying powers of life. Yet I take up my pen with cheerfulness to express the satisfaction with which I have read and examined this first number of your work. I think it well executed, both in manner and matter. A judicious selection of facts, related in an elevated style, and enlivened by a rich fancy, carries the reader on with the ardor of his author, while the fine traces of the graver embody in his mind the figure with the facts of the relation. I have understood that the scale of the narrative has been censured, by some, as too short, by others, as too long. I think, myself, it is well proportioned to the object of the work. Were I to indulge a criticism, it would be on the omission to quote authorities for the lives and portraits of Columbus and Vesputius. Their age was so remote from ours in time and place,* that whatever can be learnt of them now, must be from public sources with which the reader might wish to be acquainted. In recent histories, authorities are not required, because their publication is itself an appeal to living witnesses of their truth. With my wishes that you may receive a

* *Quære*.—What does he mean by the time and place of the age in which they lived?

just remuneration for the labors and expenses of this interesting publication, accept the assurance of my esteem and respect.

THOMAS JEFFERSON.

Joseph Delaplaine, Esq.

"Sweet pliability of man's spirit," as Sterne said. That good old man, Mr. Jefferson, like Junius's landlord, could never "send any one away sad or sober." There is no talent which he possesses in half such perfection as the talent—no—the knack, of paying a compliment; and well is it for him; because to that he owes half the great reputation which he enjoys in the world. Cumberland tells us about a certain duke of Alva, who was the most popular man in Spain some seventy years ago. He had done no good; he had displayed no talent; nor virtue, nor any of the common visible means by which the good will of the world is won; the whole secret of his fame was, that "he had worn out more hats than most people;" that is, he bowed to every body. We do not mean to say that such is Mr. Jefferson—no—*nam cuique tributo*—his mind has its amiable and estimable traits, but he has so long, and so largely, availed himself of the advantages of manufacturing "oil of fool," that his recommendations are under a greater depreciation than the fog money of a Parkersburg or Owl Creek bank.

When the Peace Society applied to that venerable patriot, John Adams, to know his opinion about peace and war, he sent an answer which was a transcript of his mind. Right or wrong, it was written with the spirit of a man, and the courtesy of a gentleman; we don't mean of a Frenchman, but of a freeman. It was very right; it was a little of the Hesperian fruit of good sense, united with a profound knowledge of the human heart, and of the precarious condition of human affairs. Mr. Jefferson, in turn, is asked if war is a very horrible business. Ah! It is—a sort of—so—and a—sort of—not so: and we defy any man to tell from his answer what he thought on the subject. His letter is, in one respect, a transcript of his mind, for that still remains, on this, as on all other things, *totus teres atque rotundus*: we have in it a fair specimen of his skill and habits in the art of answering "a fool according to his folly."

And here we have a recommendation of that pretty picture book, Mr. Delaplaine's Repository—"A judicious selection of facts, related in an elevated style," &c. Yes; a selection of materials for what, in the land of our forefathers, they call blarney, when they want to give a mild phrase—blarney, without the rich, racy garnish, that any one from that sod could have furnished; in a style as precise, cold, tasteless, and senseless as the nature of our stiff, graceless language could admit; elevated on the stilts of pedantic bombast. "I have understood," says Mr. Jefferson, "that

the scale of the narrative has been censured, by some, as too short, by others, as too long." Come, sir, this will never do—no, we do not believe that you understood any such thing. That would be to suppose the critics as stupid as the writer of the work. It would be absurd to say that a man might not make his history, or his biography, or his panegyric, on a large, or on a small scale, at his option; but he should make the parts proportioned to the scale, that is, to each other; and when he pretends to delineate a character, he should give its characteristic traits. What would we think of the portrait painter who should attempt a likeness with nothing but a uniform mixture of vile flake white and fig blue? We cannot understand why all the Repository's great men should be, not only "faultless monsters," the greatest and best men in the world, but that each one should be, like each of John Bunce's five wives, better than any of the rest.

It is, however, evident from Mr. Jefferson's talk about his aversion to the "drudgery of the writing table;" and his "too oppressive correspondence," that this letter was wrung from him with a pang of melancholy reluctance. It seems to say "for heaven's sake spare me this sacrifice; let me die in peace;—but how to treat this flattery-monger—Shall I, who never refused to return the praise of any one, begin with a refusal to him? People will say it was owing to the asperity of partyism, which do not feel."

When Mr. Jefferson retired from the prime magistracy, there was a set of boys who sent him a complimentary address. The writer of this was the author of it, and his name still sticks to the tail of the boy committee. In good time there came back to us, for the newspapers, a sheet full of as smooth words as any body's heart could wish for, closing with the same genteel "assurances of his respect and esteem." Psha! this is unworthy of a man whose time is worth any thing to himself or to his country.

Let no one mistake the motive of this animadversion, we have always admired Mr. Jefferson, and cannot, without concern, see him fritter away the mantle of his literary fame, which, now that he is ascending from the world, should, with scrupulous regard, be cast only on the shoulders of Genius.

But let us have some consideration for human weakness; for what could a man do when thus unfairly assailed? Here is the publisher of a set of biographical eulogies on celebrated Americans, who sends the first number of his work to those persons that are to become the subjects of its future numbers, accompanied with letters "fishing for praise." If the great men, thus addressed, should bestow any approbation, it will establish

the character of the book; because a few in such things must judge for the million; and, approve or disapprove, they are sure to be treated by the mock Plutarch according as they happen to treat him.

"If I condemn it—furics, death, and rage;
"If I approve, commend it to the stage."

As Pope says.

Why, this is literary—and literally highway robbery. It is putting pistols to a man's heart and demanding his commendations. The results of such conduct cannot but be an outrage on the good sense and honorable feelings of the community.

In England, in days of yore, there was a set of sturdy beggars, as they were termed, that it became necessary to suppress by act of parliament. They had a method of soliciting alms, *molier in modo* but *fortiter in re*; for, being formidably armed, there was a perfect understanding between all parties, that if any man refused his purse he must be prepared to defend it.

To dat Sambo in de New-York Currier what write letter to Misser Clay in Kentuck, at dis here Congress—written on de subjack of colonading de free slaves.

Washington, January 32.

DEAR SIR,

You brack rascal—cause you got de impudent insurance to write in print-hand, like de big folk, or like de divartisements what dey put on de back-side of de noosepapers, you spose you can raze a unanimous contention mong de brack people of color about going to Guinea, where dey will never see any more of demselves again.

Now sir, if Misser Clay, or de Night States, or any oder body else, wanted to take us out of de world to Cape Cod, or any place, I'd myself be as unanimous guinst his derangement as de dibble, as it were. But Guinea, sir, is our native country, no matter where we were born. Guinea, as de British used to say, is de dear land of our fadders—only dese what got yallur blood in dem. What make dis your country? Is it cause you was bred and den born here? No, sir, country is colour for colour—brack and all brack—and ebery one after he own kind all jumble up togedder.

But you too dull in de necrehension for me. If you only know'd all about de business well as I do I'd explain him to you in de twinkling of a minute.

Folks tink cause de neeger not baptised into any trade more as an Indian, dat he not know how to manufacture he own houses and cornfields and weave he own utensil. What a great blunder is dat! Neeger ingenuity equal to any ting at all amost again. See dere my cozen Phill what invent de pair of wooden steelyards for weigh de hour of de day to a nicety.

You tink you cotch Misser Clay, cause he not agree to go to Guinea and leave you in de place of him. I spose you tink a body isent a fool. But, not to cut de matter short wid a long paramble, I leave you in dis subjack.

Till death, &c.

QUASHA.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

REPORT ON THE SINKING FUND.

Report of the committee of ways and means, to whom was referred the annual report of the secretary of the treasury, on so much thereof as relates to an addition to the sinking fund.

The committee of ways and means, to whom has been referred the annual report of the secretary of the treasury, submit to the House a report upon that part of it which relates to an addition to the sinking fund.

A provision for the extinguishment of the public debt was proposed at an early part of the last session; but its consideration was necessarily deferred, while the amount of annual revenue and expense seemed entirely undetermined. When the passage of the revenue laws, and of those which fixed the military and naval expenditure of the country, removed this objection, there was not time for a deliberate examination of the subject by Congress. Nor was it indeed important that any act in relation to a sinking fund should then be passed, since the revenue of the country could not be more effectually applied to the reduction of its debt than by paying the arrearages of military expense, and withdrawing from circulation the treasury notes which the necessities of the government had obliged it to issue. In the year 1816 the decrease of debt, as it appears upon the books of the register of the treasury, has been upwards of \$10,872,000. But to ascertain its true diminution, it is obvious that we must give credit to the government for the payment of debts which did not appear upon the books of the treasury, (such, for example, as the arrears of the army;) nor must we charge as a debt incurred in 1816 the stock which was issued in that year, in consideration of money advanced during the war. The issue of the stock did not change the amount of the debt, although it changed its character and its evidence. If these suggestions are correct, the true decrease of debt in the year 1816 cannot have been less than twenty-four millions of dollars, without including the means of further reduction which are afforded by the balance in the treasury on the 1st of January, 1817, of upwards of ten millions exclusive of treasury notes. It seems plain that no new legislative acts were necessary in the last session to accelerate the redemption of the public debt during the year 1816. It is indeed a subject of pleasing reflection that the revenue of two years has given to the treasury a sum which is equal to four fifths of the present amount of the entire debt, and which exceeds by fully seventeen millions, that proportion of it which is attributed to the late war. It will not, however, be forgotten that this state of the revenue is transitory, as it was, in some measure, unexpected. So far, too, as it has resulted from an intemperate spirit of speculation, which has proportioned our supply of foreign articles neither

to the demand nor the means of payment, it may have impaired the mercantile capital of the country, which is closely connected with its prosperity. Attribute what we may of this revenue, however, to chance or imprudence, it cannot fail to convince us that the means of the nation are adequate to the early redemption of its debt.

The debts, indeed, of no one war can be expected to reach an amount to the discharge of which, within a reasonable time, the resources of the United States would be inadequate. It is by the accumulation of the debts of the different wars which, in seasons of peace, are allowed to lie unreduced, or at least undischarged, that the system of borrowing grows to an enormity which exacts from a nation, as the annual interest of its debt, a proportion of its income greater than would have sufficed, at an early period, to have prevented or removed the incumbrance. The proposals, in regard to the redemption of the public debt, which the committee of ways and means suggest to the consideration of the House, in the sequel of this report, so far as they depend upon a view of the probable revenue and expenditure of the country, are founded upon the estimates contained in the report of the secretary of the treasury. If his estimates of revenue be somewhat lower, and of expense higher than it may be supposed by many that some succeeding years will realize, it was probably prudent to guard his plans from the failure to which, in the unsettled state of our trade, and, in some degree, of our expenses, more sanguine calculations might have exposed them. The numerous and often incongruous provisions of the present laws in relation to the sinking fund require, in the opinion of the committee, a general revision. But their views upon the subject will be explained by the bill which accompanies this report; and they will confine their further remarks principally to some of its provisions in which they propose to deviate from the plan recommended by the secretary of the treasury.

The certain appropriation of ten millions annually, the committee do not propose to increase. While it is entirely within the means of the treasury to discharge, it will probably be competent (with the aid which it will derive from the other provisions of the bill) to redeem the public debt, reduced, as it has been, by the payments of the last year, within a term nearly as short as has ever been contemplated for its extinguishment.

The large amount of revenues which accrued during the last year, enables Congress, in the opinion of the committee, to apply so considerable a sum to the payment or purchase of public stock in 1817, as to increase, very sensibly, the effect of every subsequent year's appropriation, and materially to hasten the entire redemption of the public debt. They propose that, in addition to the permanent and regular annual appropriation, there should be paid, in the year 1817, to the commissioners of the sinking fund the sum of nine millions of dollars, together with four millions, to be considered as an advance on account of the regular appropriating of the succeeding year. It is obvious that no advantage can arise from keeping in the treasury a sum to be applied, at some future period, to the payment of the principal of a debt. Where it is to be applied to the payment of interest, or of the expenses of government, the case is somewhat different; and the committee have, therefore, confined themselves to proposing

an advance in 1817 of that part of the appropriation for 1818 which may be considered as applicable to the payment of the principal of the debt.

In addition to the annual appropriations of ten millions, it has been proposed by the secretary of the treasury to make, in each year, a further appropriation of one million, whenever it can be done, without reducing the balance in the treasury, at the end of the year, below two millions. The committee admit that it may be prudent to apply only such part of the surplus in the treasury as may be paid without reducing the balance below the sum which has been mentioned, but they think that whatever surplus, though it should exceed a million, can be applied without such reduction, should, also, be appropriated. The bill which they report provides that this shall be done, after the year 1817.

The advantage which may be derived from the last provision, is too uncertain in amount to admit of calculation or of estimate. Such is not, however, the character of the additional appropriation proposed to be made in 1817. This must diminish the interest to be paid for the next year by \$760,000, in 1819 by \$525,000, and in 1820 by \$557,000, and will leave in the treasury, (adopting in the secretary's estimates of revenue and expenditure) on the 1st of January, 1818, \$3,650,000; on the 1st of January, 1819, \$1,400,000; and on the 1st of January, 1820, \$1,150,000; after which, it is estimated, that the produce of the revenue will be increased.

In adding to the amount of the sinking fund, it appears to the committee not unworthy of the wisdom of the legislature to simplify its operations. The documents subjoined to the last treasury report show, that on the 1st of October last there were nearly 34,000,000 of stock of fourteen different descriptions, and carrying seven different rates of interest, standing on the books of the treasury to the credit of the commissioners of the sinking fund, on which interest is supposed regularly to accrue and to be paid, with no other effect than that of adding to the labors of those who keep, and those who wish to understand the accounts of the government. The committee propose that all certificates of public debt, when they are redeemed, shall be destroyed. It may be said to be hardly worth making a change in our law to produce no practical effect; and it is respectfully suggested, that, even if the trouble which it will save in making up the accounts be of no moment, it is of some consequence that their state should be such as to admit of being easily and generally understood, and that what is, in itself, plain, should not be obscured by the introduction of a useless fiction.

The committee report "a bill to provide for the redemption of the public debt," and also, "a bill to repeal so much of any acts, now in force, as authorizes a loan of money, or an issue of treasury notes."

NEUTRALITY OF THE UNITED STATES.

Department of State, Jan. 6, 1817.

SIR,—Having communicated to you verbally the information asked for by your letter of the 1st inst. except so far as relates to the last inquiry it contains, I have now the honor to state, that the provisions necessary to make the laws effectual against fitting out armed vessels in our ports, for the purpose of hostile cruising, seem to be,

1st. That they should be laid under bond, not to violate the treaties of the United States, or the obligations of the United States under the law of nations, in all cases where there is reason to suspect such a purpose on foot; including the cases of vessels taking on board arms and munitions of war, applicable to the equipment and armament of such vessels, subsequent to their departure.

2d. To invest the collectors, or other revenue officers, where there are no collectors, with power to seize and detain vessels under circumstances indicating strong presumption of an intended breach of the law: the detention to take place until the order of the executive, on a full representation of the facts had thereupon, can be obtained. The statute book contains analogous powers to this above suggested. See particularly the 11th section of the act of Congress of April 25, 1808.

The existing laws do not go to this extent. They do not authorize the demand of security in any shape, or any interposition, on the part of the magistracy, as a preventive, where there is reason to suspect an intention to commit the offence. They rest upon the general footing of punishing the offence merely where, if there be full evidence of the actual perpetration of the crime, the party is handed over, after trial, to the penalty denounced.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES MONROE.

*Hon. John Forsyth, Chairman
of the Committee of Foreign Affairs.*

Department of State, Jan. 10, 1817.

SIR,—In addition to the letter which I wrote to you on the 6th, in reply to the one which you wrote to me on the 1st instant, I have the honor to state, that information has been received at this department, from various sources, that vessels have been armed and equipped in our ports, for the purpose of cruising against the commerce of nations in amity with the United States; and no doubt is entertained that this information was in some instances correct. The owners of these vessels have, however, generally taken care so to conceal these armaments and equipments, and the object of them, as to render it extremely difficult, under existing circumstances, to prevent or punish this infraction of the law. It has been represented,

1st. That vessels belonging to citizens of the United States, or foreigners, have been armed and equipped in our ports, and have cleared out from our custom-houses, as merchant vessels; and, after touching at other ports, have hoisted the flag of some of the belligerents, and cruized under it against the commerce of nations in amity with the United States.

2dly. That in other instances other vessels, armed and equipped in our ports, have hoisted such flags after clearing out and getting to sea, and have, in like manner, cruized against the commerce of nations in amity with the United States, extending their depredations, in a few cases, to the property of citizens of the United States.

3dly. That in other instances, foreign vessels have entered the ports of the United States, and, availing themselves of the privileges allowed by our laws, have, in various modes, augmented their

armaments, with pretended commercial views—have taken on board citizens of the United States, as passengers, who, on their arrival at neutral ports, have assumed the character of officers and soldiers in the service of some of the parties in the contest now prevailing in our southern hemisphere.

Information, founded upon these representations, has, from time to time, been given to the attorneys and collectors of the respective districts in which the armaments are stated to have been made; but from the difficulty of obtaining the necessary evidence to establish facts on which the law would operate, few prosecutions have been instituted.

In reply to your second inquiry, I beg leave to refer to the communication from the secretary of the treasury to the committee of ways and means, during the last session of Congress, in the case of the "American Eagle," and to the papers enclosed herewith.

JAMES MONROE.

*Hon. John Foreyth, Chairman
of the Committee of Foreign Affairs.*

GENERAL HARRISON'S CASE.

The select committee of the House of Representatives, to whom was referred the letter and documents from the acting secretary of war, on the subject of General Harrison's letter, ask leave to report—

That they have investigated the facts involved in this inquiry, by the examination of documents and a great number of most respectable witnesses, personally acquainted with the transactions from which the inquiry originated. And the committee are unanimously of opinion, that General Harrison stands above suspicion, as to his having had any pecuniary or improper connexion with the officers of the commissariat for the supply of the army; that he did not wantonly or improperly interfere with the rights of contractors, and that he was, in his measures, governed by a proper zeal and devotion to the public interest.

The committee beg leave to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject; and, as the papers refer in part to the conduct and transactions of the contractors of the north-western army, where accounts are unsettled, and only incidentally involved in this inquiry, that the papers be transmitted to the department of war.

After the report was read, Mr. Hulbert said, that, having the honor to be one of the committee who made the report which was then before the House, he felt it his duty to make a few remarks upon it.

The committee, he said, considered the subject an important one. It was interesting to the public, and highly and especially so to general Harrison. The character of that gentleman had been impeached. They, therefore, determined to make the investigation as full and thorough as should be in their power. With such views and sentiments they entered upon the inquiry. They had notified a gentleman who had made charges in writing against the general, and requested his attendance upon the committee, and he had more than once attended. They had read and considered all the documents and papers which they could obtain, and which they thought calculated to throw light on the inquiry, and had examined many respect-

able witnesses, and the investigation had resulted in a firm belief, and an unanimous opinion of the committee, that the insinuations and complaints which had been made against General Harrison, and which were the foundation of his application to Congress, were unmerited, groundless and unjust.

Mr. Hulbert said it gave him pleasure to make these declarations. He considered himself doing an act of justice to an injured individual. He said he must acknowledge that he had entertained impressions very unfavorable to the general. The complaints which had been made against him had spread far and wide. The bane and antidote had not gone together. He rejoiced that this inquiry had been made, and he had no hesitation in saying that, so far as the report of the committee should defend, before the public, the conduct and character of General Harrison, it would promote the cause of truth and justice.

Mr. Hulbert said that the general had been charged with unjust and oppressive conduct, in relation to the contractors in the army under his command. He said he was entirely satisfied that the general had interfered only in those cases where he thought his duty to the public imperiously required it. In saying this, he meant to cast no imputation upon the contractors; he spoke only of what he believed to be the motives of General Harrison.

The most serious accusation against the general was, that, while he was commander in chief in the west, regardless of his country's good, he was in the habit of managing the public concerns with a view to his own private interest and emolument. Mr. Hulbert said he could not refrain from pronouncing this a false and cruel accusation. He was confident that directly the reverse was true. There was the most satisfactory evidence that the general, in the exercise of his official duties, in his devotion to the public interest, had neglected his private concerns, to his material detriment and injury. In a word, said Mr. Hulbert, I feel myself authorized to say that every member of the committee is fully satisfied that the conduct of General Harrison, in relation to the subject matter of this inquiry, has been that of a brave, honest and honorable man; that, instead of deserving censure, he merits the thanks and applause of his country.

NATIONAL LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

Friday, Jan. 24.—Mr. Roberts reported a bill establishing the salaries of the messengers in the executive departments.

Mr. Chase reported a bill to provide for the punishment of crimes and offences committed within the Indian boundaries.

Mr. Morrow reported a bill for the division of certain quarter sections in future sales of the public lands.

These bills were severally read and passed to a second reading.

The bill to provide for the prompt settlement of the public accounts, was discussed, amended, reported by the committee of the whole to the Senate, and then postponed to Friday.

The bill from the other House to amend the claims law was taken up, considered, and postponed to Wednesday.

The Senate adjourned to Monday.

Tuesday, Jan. 28.—Mr. Roberts reported a bill making appropriations for the payment of certain claims for militia services, to the State of Georgia.

Mr. Williams reported a bill to appoint additional pension agents.

These bills were read and passed to a second reading.

Mr. Talbot presented the memorial of Harry Toulmin, praying some modification of the bill now before the Senate, for erecting the western part of the Mississippi Territory into a State, which was read.

The following resolution, yesterday moved by Mr. Troup, was taken up and agreed to:

Resolved, That the president of the United States be requested to cause to be laid before the Senate such information as he may possess, touching the execution of so much of the first article of the late treaty between his Britannic Majesty and the United States of America, as relates to the restoration of slaves.

The bill authorizing the appointment of hospital surgeons and hospital surgeons' mates in the navy; the bill to repeal the second section of the act concerning the pay of the officers, seamen, and marines in the service of the United States, reported yesterday, were severally read a second time.

The Mississippi State bill was taken up, amended, and, after some discussion, farther postponed till to-morrow.

The bill for the prompt settlement of public accounts was taken up, amended, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Thursday, Jan. 30.—The bill from the House of Representatives to amend the act authorizing payment for property lost, captured, &c. was taken up; and, after discussion, was, on motion of Mr. Mason of N. H. recommended to the committee of claims, with instructions so to amend the act as to make it the duty of the commissioner to examine all testimony relating to claims arising under the 9th section of the original act, and report the facts to Congress for their determination.

The bill to establish a separate territorial government in the eastern part of the Mississippi territory, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The bill to provide for the due execution of the laws of the United States in the State of Indiana, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The bill to provide for the prompt settlement of public accounts (according to the plan proposed by the report of the heads of departments on that subject) was read a third time, passed, and sent to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

The bill to repeal the compensation law from and after the end of the present session was taken up.

A motion was made by Mr. Chace to strike out of the bill the proviso in the following words:

"*Provided always*, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to revive any act or acts or parts of acts, repealed or suspended by the act hereby repealed."

The question on this motion was decided in the negative by the following vote:

YEAS—Messrs. Barbour, Chace, Goldsborough, Mason, Mason of N. H. Mason of Va. Noble, Ruggles, Sanford, Tichenor, Varnum.—11.

NAYS—Messrs. Ashmun, Brown, Campbell, Condict, Daggett, Fromentin, Gaillard, Horsey, Howell, Hunter, King, La-

cock, Morrow, Roberts, Smith, Stokes, Talbot, Tait, Thompson, Troup, Wells, Williams.—22.

The bill was then ordered to be read a third time, in the shape in which it passed the other House.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Thursday, Jan. 23.—Mr. Johnson, of Ky. from the committee to which was referred the letter and report from the acting secretary of war, on the application of major general William H. Harrison, respecting his expenditures of public money while commanding the north western army, made a report thereon, stating that the committee are unanimously of opinion that general Harrison stands above all suspicion as to his having had any pecuniary or improper connection with the officers of the commissariat, for the supply of his army; that he did not wantonly or improperly interfere with the rights of the contractors, and that in his whole conduct as the commander of the army, he was governed by a laudable zeal for, and devotion to the public service and interest; which report was read and considered: whereupon, it was

Ordered, That the committee be discharged from the further consideration of the subject, and that the papers be transmitted to the department of war.

Mr. Clark, of New-York, from the committee to which was referred the memorials and petitions of the inhabitants of the town of Buffalo and the Niagara frontier, claiming indemnification for property destroyed by the enemy during the late war with Great Britain, made a detailed report, accompanied by a bill for the relief of certain sufferers in the late war between the United States and G. Britain; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. H. Nelson, from the committee on the judiciary, reported a bill to appoint an additional judge for the Mississippi territory and for other purposes, which was twice read and committed.

On motion of Mr. Ingham,

A committee was ordered to be appointed to inquire into the expediency of amending so much of the act of the 21st April, 1810, entitled "An act to regulate and fix the compensation of clerks, and to authorize the laying out certain roads, and for other purposes," as relates to the compensation of clerks.

On motion of Mr. Blount, the committee on the post-office and post-roads were instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a post road from Dandridge, in Jefferson county, to Sevierville, in Sevier county, Tennessee.

The engrossed bill to repeal (from and after the end of the present session) the act altering the mode of compensation to the members of Congress, &c. was read the third time.

Mr. Mills, of Mass. rose, and moved that the bill be indefinitely postponed.

The yeas and nays being ordered on the question,

Mr. Mills withdrew his amendment for the present.

Mr. Parris moved to amend the bill by striking out the clause which makes the repeal prospective, with a view of making the repeal of the existing act take effect from the passage of this bill.

This motion was, however, decided to be not in order, as it was a motion declared to be already decided by the House.

The question was then stated, "Shall the bill pass?"

Mr. King moved to recommit the bill to a select committee, with instruction to report a repeal of the existing act, and the revival of the former acts fixing the compensation.

The motion was objected to by Mr. Culpepper, and supported by the mover; when

The question was taken on the recommitment, and negatived by a large majority.

The question recurred on the passage of the bill.

Mr. Pitkin spoke at some length; when

The question whether the bill should pass was decided by the following vote:

YEAS—Messrs. Adams, Alexander, Archer, Atherton, Avery, Baer, Baker, Barbour, Bassett, Bateman, Bennet, Birdsall, Birdseye, Blount, Boss, Breckenridge, Brooks, Bryan, Burwell, Cad- dy, Caldwell, Cannon, Carr, Ms. Champion, Cilley, Clark, N. Y. Clark, N. C. Clendennin, Comstock, Conner, Cook, Crawford, Creighton, Crocheron, Culpepper, Darlington, Desha, Dickens, Edwards, Findley, Fletcher, Forney, Forsyth, Gaston, Gold, Goldsborough, Goodwyn, Griffin, Hahn, Hale, Hammond, Hardin, Harrison, Heister, Henderson, Hendricks, Herbert, Hooks, Huger, Hungerford, Ingham, Irving, N. Y. Irwin, Penn. Jackson, Jew- ett, Johnson, Va. Johnson Ky. Kent, King, Lang- don, Law, Lewis, Little, Love, Lovett, Lowndes, Lumpkin, Lyle, Lyon, Wm. Maclay, Wm. P. Mac- lay, Marsh, Mason, M'Coy, M'Kee, M'Lean, Mil- ler, Milnor, Moffit, Moore, Moseley, Jer. Nelson, Thos. M. Nelson, Noyes, Parris, Peter, Pickering, Piper, Pleasants, Powell, Randolph, Reed, Rey- nolds, Roane, Root, Ross, Ruggles, Schenck, Sharp, Sheffey, Smith, Md. Smith, Va. Southard, Strong, Stuart, Sturges, Taggart, Tallmadge, Tate, Taul, Taylor, N. Y. Taylor, S. C. Thomas, Tyler, Vose, Ward, Ms. Ward, N. J. Wheaton, Whiteside, Wil- cox, Wilde, Wilkin, Williams, Willoughby, Thos. Wilson, Wm. Wilson, Yancey—138.

NAYS—Messrs. Baylies, Betts, Bradbury, Cal- houn, Chappell, Clayton, Condict, Cooper, Daven- port, Grosvenor, Hall, Hopkinson, Hulbert, Kerr, Va. Mills, Newton, Pitkin, Rice, Robertson, Sa- vage, Penn. Stearns, Wallace, Ward, N. Y. Wen- dower, Woodward, Yates,—27.

So the bill passed, and after considerable dis- cussion on the title proper to be given, thereto, whether it should express fully all the provisions of the bill, &c. it was decided at length to be en- titled "An act to repeal, after the close of the present session of Congress, the act entitled an act to change the mode of compensation to the members of the Senate and House of Representa- tives and delegates from territories," and sent to the Senate for concurrence.

The House, on motion of Mr. Forsyth, took up the joint resolution respecting the arrangement lately made by the directors of the United States' bank, and the said resolution was twice read and committed to a committee of the whole House.

The House then, on motion of Mr. Forsyth, went into a committee of the whole, Mr. Jackson in the chair, on the bill to prevent the citizens of the United States from selling vessels of war to the citizens or subjects of any foreign power, and more effectually to prevent the arming and equip- ping vessels of war in the ports of the United States, intended to be used against nations in amity with the United States.

Before it had got through the bill, the commit- tee rose, reported progress, obtained leave to sit again, and, about 4 o'clock,

The House adjourned.

Friday, Jan. 24.—Mr. M'Kee, of Kentucky, moved the following resolutions of inquiry:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to in- quire whether any, and, if any, what offices, cre- ated during the war, have become useless by the return of peace.

Resolved, That the said committee be instruct- ed to inquire into the expediency of abolishing all useless and unnecessary offices.

Resolved, That the said committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of disqualifying any person from holding two offices at the same time.

Resolved, That the said committee be instruct- ed to inquire into the expediency of equalizing the pay and emoluments of the officers and per- sons employed in the civil, military and naval de- partments of the government.

The resolutions were agreed to without a divi- sion, and a committee of five ordered to be ap- pointed accordingly.

On motion of Mr. Langdon,

Resolved, That the secretary of war be requir- ed to lay before this House a statement of the an- nual expenditures at the military academy at West Point, from its commencement to this time: also, the number of students who have annually enter- ed, or completed their education in said academy; and, also, what number of persons therein edu- cated are now retained in the army of the United States, and the offices in which they severally serve.

The House then proceeded to the order of the day on the bill further to prevent the fitting out, in the ports of the United States, of expeditions against nations in amity with the United States. In committee of the whole, Mr. Jackson in the chair.

There arose on this question a debate: the re- sult of which was, the reporting of the bill to the House without essential amendment.

The House adjourned, without acting further on the bill.

Saturday, Jan. 25.—Mr. Lowndes, from the committee of ways and means, reported a bill re- specting the assessment and collection of the di- rect tax; and a bill authorizing the deposit of the papers of foreign vessels with the consuls of their respective nations; which bills were severally twice read and committed.

Mr. Robertson, from the committee on the public lands, reported a bill for making provision for the establishing additional land offices in the Territory of Missouri, and for the final adjustment of claims to town and village lots therein; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Ingham, from the committee on the post- office and post roads, made an unfavourable report on the petition of the American Bible society, praying for the privilege of franking letters, which was read and laid on the table.

Mr. Forsyth, from the committee on foreign affairs, reported a bill to amend the acts for the government and regulation of seamen in the mer- chant service, and for the relief of distressed Ame- rican seamen in foreign ports.

The committee on foreign affairs, were, on mo- tion of Mr. Forsyth, discharged from the further consideration of the petitions from Norfolk, New- buryport, and Alexandria, from sundry merchants for remuneration of French spoiliations prior to the year 1800.

Mr. Bateman, from the committee on roads and

canals, reported a bill to regulate the laying out and making a road from the Ohio river, opposite the point where the Cumberland road strikes that river, to the State of Indiana; which was read and committed.

Mr. Calhoun, from a select committee, reported without amendment the resolution from the Senate to employ colonel Trumbull to execute certain paintings, and the same was committed to a committee of the whole House.

Mr. Wright offered a resolution to inquire into the expediency of relieving such citizens as have had their property destroyed or so occupied by the enemy as to render the same unprofitable.

And on the question being put to adopt the same, it was *rejected*.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of the amendment reported by the committee of the whole House, to restrain the equipment and fitting out of vessels in our ports, to be used against nations in amity with the United States.

Monday, Jan. 27.—Mr. Telfair, from a select committee on the subject, made a detailed report accompanied by a bill to authorize the payment of certain claims of the State of Georgia; which was twice read and committed.

The Speaker laid before the House annual statements of the secretary of the treasury, of moneys paid for miscellaneous claims, of contracts made, and of purchases and payments for the temporary relief of sick and disabled seamen; and also, reports from the secretary of the navy, on the petition of Moses Tryon and Richard Law, jun. and on the petition of William Farr and John Maxwell.

A message was received from the President of the United States, transmitting copies of ratified treaties between the United States and certain Indian tribes, recommending it to Congress to take into consideration how far legislative provision may be necessary for carrying into effect stipulations contained in the said treaties.

The message was referred to the committee of ways and means.

On motion of Mr. Goldsborough, the committee of commerce and manufactures were instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a port of entry at the town of Princess Ann, in Somerset county in the State of Maryland.

Mr. Comstock said he had sometimes been called upon in the line of professional obligations, to probe those wounds and to cause them to bleed afresh, which were partially healed. It was now his painful duty to advert to transactions which exhibited the human character in an amiable and honorable aspect, and in vile and horrid deformity. The history of the battle of the river Raisin, said he, fought under the command of the brave but unfortunate General Winchester, has been read by this House and this nation, with too much interest and sensibility to have been forgotten. It is known, sir, that in 1813, Frenchtown and its contiguous settlements were menaced by a savage foe. The inhabitants manifested universal apprehension, and solicited from our army aid and protection. General Winchester with a force of about seven hundred and fifty men, chiefly volunteers from the State of Kentucky, among whom were many of her most favourite sons, promptly repaired to this quarter to defend the inhabitants from that promiscuous carnage, in which this species of enemy usually indulge: that on the 23d day of the month above 1,500 British and Indians, the latter headed by Roundhead and Splitlog, and all under the

command of General Proctor, attacked this Spartan band. They successfully repelled, for a considerable time, the ferocious assaults of the enemy, in the unequal conflict. But, sir, the most wise and gallant efforts, while they challenge our admiration, are not always crowned with success.

Terrors and fair promises were held out, by General Proctor, to our troops. They did surrender, and with what faith these engagements were regarded is too well known. The surviving prisoners were put under the charge of Indians, to be marched to Malden. But few ever arrived at the place of destination. Many were wantonly massacred on the way, and others carried off by the Indians, and made the degraded objects of an abominable traffic.

In view of the complicated misery our troops were suffering and would continue to endure in barbarian captivity, the citizens in and about Detroit, obeying the voice of humanity and the dictates of benevolent feelings, purchased numbers of them from the Indians. Some of the inhabitants who engaged in this laudable work, are, I understand, in limited circumstances, and stand in need of being remunerated for these expenditures. The ladies, ever pre-eminent in acts of kindness and charity, displayed the distinguishing perfections of their character, upon this mournful occasion. They cheerfully parted with their personal ornaments, and with many articles of clothing, to redeem from the most deplorable slavery their brave but unfortunate defenders. In thus purchasing redemption, sir, for our captives, the inhabitants anticipated the government in the discharge of an imperious duty, which it certainly would have performed. Sound policy which is always founded in justice, demands that the government should indemnify the class of citizens, of which I have spoken.

It is proper to mention, sir, upon this subject, what, I am informed, has lately been ascertained, that even at this moment one of our citizens taken prisoner at the river Raisin, is held in cruel bondage by an Indian in the Upper Province of Canada.

Mr. Comstock then moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That the military committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making provision, by law, to remunerate those, who, in the late war, redeemed, by purchase, our captive officers and soldiers from the Indians, and of making such provision as may be deemed expedient, to redeem those now in captivity.

Mr. Harrison said he hoped this resolution would be adopted. He had learnt, he said, from a respectable source, that a citizen of ours was, at this moment, held in captivity in the city of Quebec, the capital of the Province of Lower Canada, where the governor general of all the possessions of his Britannic majesty in Canada resides. Mr. H. said he had been in doubt whether a tale so improbable, as that a citizen of the United States, whom the British government was bound by treaty to release and deliver up, should yet be retained in captivity. He had to read again and again a letter he had received from a lawyer of high standing in Lexington, who assured him he was well acquainted with the person who had given him the information, that a certain man by the name of Fant or Fants, a drummer in Captain Hart's company, (whom General H. said he well remembered) was hired out in Quebec by an Indian, for the benefit

of his pocket. It was impossible that the circumstance should exist, and the fact should not before this have reached the ears of the British officers there. He hoped the resolution would be adopted; and that the President of the United States would take proper measures to represent that circumstance, in its proper light, to the British government.

The resolution was adopted without debate or opposition.

The resolution from the Senate to authorize the President of the United States to employ Col. John Trumbull to compose and execute four paintings of the principal events of the Revolutionary contest (to be placed in the Capitol) was taken up and ordered to be read a third time, without opposition.

The object of the resolution was opposed by Messrs. Forsyth, Ross, Robertson, Taylor, of N. Y. and Mr. Hardin, and advocated by Messrs. Calhoun, Wright, Hopkinson, Harrison, Randolph, Nelson, and Mr. Grosvenor.

Mr. Taylor of N. Y. moved to postpone the consideration of the resolution. *Negatived.*

Mr. Taylor of N. Y. then moved to recommit the resolution, with instructions to report a limitation of the expenditure of money for this object. This motion was also *negatived.*

The question on the passage of the resolution, was, after a long debate, decided by yeas and nays, as follows:

For the Resolution,	114
Against it,	50

So the Resolution was passed.

The House resumed the consideration of the bill more effectually to restrain our citizens from enterprizes against nations in amity with the United States: the question still being on striking out the third section of the bill.

Mr. Root delivered a speech of considerable length in favor of the motion, and expressed his views of the question very much at large. Not only this bill proposed to go too far, but the acts already existing, he contended, went too far. He avowed, in the strongest terms, his disposition to recognize the independence of the Spanish provinces, and hoped the government would acknowledge their minister, Mr. Thompson, &c. He denounced, in the strongest terms, the provisions of the 3d section, as not only tyrannical, but unnecessary. If our citizens did commit acts of hostility against Spain, our government had only to disavow any agency in the acts, and there would be a fair offset to the affair of the Firebrand; for in such matters, in diplomatic etiquette, it seemed the word of one nation must be taken for the fact by another. He was not only opposed to this bill entirely, but he wished to God he could rend from the statute book the act of 1797, which he considered as infringing the spirit of the constitution, &c.

Mr. Barbour, after an argument at length to prove that the government ought not to extend its inhibitions to the citizens and subjects of another state, who might purchase vessels from our citizens, and that so to do was not necessary to the most sincere disposition to carry into effect our neutral obligations, moved an amendment to the 3d section, calculated to reconcile it to his view in this respect; which, after a few remarks in reply by Mr. Forsyth, was agreed to.

The question was then taken on striking out the 3d section of the bill, and decided by yeas and nays, as follows:

For the motion,

37

Against it,

98

So the House refused to strike out the third section.

Tuesday, Jan. 28.—Mr. Lowndes, from the committee of ways and means, made a report on that part of the estimates for the military service in the year 1817, relating to the charge produced by brevet commissions, which was read; when Mr. L. reported a bill respecting the pay and emoluments of certain officers of the army of the United States; which was read twice and committed.

Mr. Lowndes also reported a bill making appropriations for the support of the navy of the United States, for the year 1817; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Lowndes, from the committee of ways and means, made an unfavorable report on the petition of Jesse Hunt, who prays for the remission of certain duties payable to the United States, by reason of the destruction by fire of the said goods, on their voyage in the steam boat. This report was earnestly opposed by Mr. Harrison, on the principle that the government ought not to demand a tax or duty from any man who, without his own agency, had become unable to pay it, and it was supported by Messrs. Lowndes, Randolph, and Smith of Md. on the ground of the established practice of the government to insist on the payment of the duties in all cases whatsoever. The report was concurred in.

Mr. T. Wilson reported, from a select committee, a bill authorizing the opening and working copper mines on Lake Superior, and for other purposes; which, by a small majority, was permitted to receive a second reading, and was committed.

Mr. Moseley, from a select committee, reported a bill to extend the patent of Andrew Law for his improvement in the art of printing Music; which, by a vote of 58 to 45, was permitted to have a second reading, and was committed.

Mr. Gaston, from the select committee, to whom was referred the memorial of the legislature of North-Carolina, respecting unsettled claims to lands on North-Carolina grants, &c. delivered in a detailed report on the subject, introductory to a bill supplementary to the act entitled "An act to authorize the State of Tennessee to issue grants and perfect titles to certain lands therein described, &c." which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Gaston also made a report on the petition of certain citizens of Blount county, Tenn. respecting public lands; which was read and concurred in.

The House then proceeded to the order of the day on the bill, which has been under consideration for three days past, to repress private expeditions for warlike purposes, against powers in amity with the United States.

Many amendments were offered to the bill; some of which were agreed to, and others *negatived.*

The question was then stated on ordering the bill to be engrossed for a third reading, as amended.

Mr. Wright moved that the bill be laid on the table, in order to print it with the amendments, for the better information of the house, *Negatived.*

Other amendments were proposed, among which was one by Mr. Wright to add the following as a new section to the bill:

"Be it further enacted, That any ship or vessel sailing out of the United States under license from any foreign minister shall be liable to capture and condemnation."

This motion was negatived. On these several propositions for amendment, much debate took place.

Mr. Wright and Mr. Ross, both spoke at some length against the principles and policy of the bill:

When the question was taken, "shall the bill be engrossed and read a third time?" and decided as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Adams, Adgate, Archer, Atherton, Baer, Baker, Bassett, Bateman, Baylies, Birdseye, Boss, Bradbury, Breckenridge, Brown, Burwell, Cady, Champion, Chappell, Cilley, Condict, Cooper, Culpepper, Darlington, Davenport, Dickens, Edwards, Forsyth, Gaston, Gold, Goldsborough, Goodwyn, Griffin, Hahn, Hale, Hall, Hardin, Heister, Hendricks, Herbert, Hooks, Hopkinson, Huger, Hulbert, Hungerford, Jackson, Jewett, Kent, King, M. Langdon, Law, Lewis, Lovett, Lowndes, Lyon, Marsh, Middleton, Miller, Mills, Minor, Mosley, Murfree, Nelson, M. Newton, Noyes, Peter, Pickens, Pickering, Pitkin, Pleasants, Reed, Rice, Roane, Ruggles, Sheffey, Smith, Penn. Smith, M. Smith, Va. Strong, Stuart, Sturges, Taggart, Tallmadge, Taylor, N. Y. Telfair, Townsend, Vose, Ward, Mass. Ward, N. J. Wheaton, Wilcox, Wilde, Williams, Woodward, Yancey.—94.

NAYS—Messrs. Alexander, Barbour, Bennet, Betts, Birdsall, Blount, Brooks, Bryan, Caldwell, Calhoun, Cannon, Carr, Mas. Clark, N. C. Clark, N. Y. Clendennin, Conner, Cook, Crawford, Creighton, Crocherson, Desha, Fletcher, Forney, Hammond, Harrison, Henderson, Ingham, Johnson, Va. Johnson, Ky. Kerr, Va. Little, Love, Lumpkin, Lytle, W. Maclay, Wm. F. Maclay, McCoy, McLean, Moore, Nelson, Va. Parrott, Piper, Powell, Reynolds, Robertson, Root, Ross, Savage, Sharp, Tanl, Thomas, Tyler, Wallace, Ward, N. Y. Wendover, Whiteside, Wilkin, Wm. Wilson, Wright, Yates.—60.

So the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading; and the House adjourned.

Wednesday, Jan. 29.—Mr. Lowndes, from the committee of ways and means, reported a bill for the relief of certain friendly Creek Indians, whose property had been plundered by the hostile Creeks in the late war, in consequence of their attachment to the United States.

Mr. Chappell, from the committee on pensions and revolutionary claims, reported the annual bill concerning invalid pensioners, which was twice read and committed.

On motion of Mr. Sheffey, the committee on the post-office and post-roads were instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a post route from the Boat Yard, in Tennessee, to Scott Court House, in Virginia.

The same committee were, on motion of Mr. Atherton, instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a post route from Groton, Massachusetts, through the town of Pepperell and Hollis to Amherst, in New-Hampshire.

The same committee were, on motion of Mr. Findley, directed to inquire into the expediency of changing the post route from Greensburg to Indiana, in Pennsylvania, so that a post office may be established at the Great Salt Works on the Connemack river.

The engrossed bill to prohibit the sale of armed vessels, to be used against friendly powers, &c. was read the third time and passed—ayes 83, noes 62.

The title was amended so as to entitle it "An act more effectually to preserve the neutral relations of the United States;" and the bill sent to the Senate for concurrence.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Breckenridge in the chair, on the bill to regulate the navigation of the United States. [To prohibit, after a certain day, the importation of any merchandise from any foreign port, except in vessels of the United States, or in

foreign vessels owned wholly by the citizens or subjects of the country of which the goods are the growth or produce, or from which such goods, &c. are usually shipped for transportation: *Provided*, that the prohibition shall not extend to the vessels of any foreign nation which has not adopted, or shall not adopt, a similar regulation.]

Mr. Forsyth explained the views of the committee.

Mr. Lowndes moved to strike out of the bill the *proviso* stated above.

This motion produced an interesting debate on the principles of the bill, in which the commercial intercourse of this country with foreign nations, the relations of trade generally, and the effect of our commercial conventions, &c. were widely discussed. The gentlemen who took a leading part in the discussion were, Messrs. Lowndes, Forsyth, Smith of Md. Calhoun, Clay, Hopkinson, and Pitkin.

On taking the question on striking out the *proviso*, it was decided in the negative—ayes 36.

No other amendment being offered, the committee proceeded to take up the next bill referred to it—being the bill to prohibit all commercial intercourse with those ports into which the vessels of the United States are not permitted to enter and trade.

After spending some time in discussing the provisions of this bill, and various propositions to amend them,

The committee rose and reported the first bill to the House, and obtained leave to sit again on the latter one.

Thursday, Jan. 30.—On motion of Mr. Jackson, the committee on post-offices and post-roads were instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a post route from Harrison county court house, by Lewis county court house, to Mason county court house, in Virginia.

Mr. Pope offered for consideration the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the committee on the public lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of granting or securing to the town of St. Louis, in the Missouri Territory, as a common, all the sand bar or batture, formed by the recession of the Mississippi river, between the said town and low water mark, and to prohibit the location of any floating claim, in the said territory, thereon; or if any location shall have been made, to prohibit by law the issuing of a patent therefor.

Resolved also, That the committee on the public lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of prohibiting by law the location of any floating claim on any lands in the territory of Missouri, the right of pre-emption to which land has been secured to any settler by the act of the 12th of April, 1814, or, if any such location should have been made, to prohibit by law the issuing of a patent therefor.

Resolved also, That the committee on the public lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of prohibiting by law the location of any floating claim in the territory of Missouri, on any lands, the right, title or claim to which has been at any time heretofore given notice of, or filed with either of the boards of commissioners in said territory, or with the recorder of land titles, acting as such under any act of Congress, for the adjustment of land titles in said territory, or if any such location should have been made, to prohibit by law the issuing of patents therefor.

Resolved also, That the committee on the public lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of prohibiting, by law, the location of any floating claim in the Territory of Missouri, or any town lot, village lot, out lot, or common field lot, or commons, in, adjoining, or appertaining to any of the towns or villages in the territory of Missouri; or if any such location shall have been made, to prohibit by law the issuing of patents therefor.

Mr. P. explained the object of these resolutions. In regard to the *first*, he said, that under the law passed at a former session, authorizing the transfer of land claims from the county of New-Madrid to other vacant lands in the Missouri Territory, an attempt had been made to appropriate a piece of land usually called Batture, between high and low water mark, the possession of which, in this manner obtained, would probably be extremely detrimental to the town of St. Louis, subjecting its prosperity to the will of the owner of that property. In regard to the *second*, it was predicated on the injustice of permitting pre-emption claims, already recognized by law, from being covered by other patents, &c. With respect to the *third*, he said that involved a matter of more difficulty. The act of Congress for the settlement of land claims in the Missouri Territory made the decisions of the commissioners thereon final, when the claims should be favourably adjudged. When otherwise, the decisions were not final, but were referred by the act to the decision of Congress in respect to the question between the United States and the claimants. Congress not having yet legislated on the subject, the claims yet stood against the government; and, as in some cases the claims had been improperly rejected by the commissioners, it would not be proper to permit those who obtained the bounty of government, to locate their grants in such a manner as to deprive such individuals of their rights. The *fourth* regarded town lots, which it would be injudicious and unfair to suffer individuals to locate claims on, &c.

The resolutions were adopted without objection.

On motion of Mr. Harrison, the military committee were instructed to inquire into the expediency of granting a bounty of one hundred and sixty acres of land to all the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the army, who, having been enlisted previous to the 24th December, 1811, are not entitled to said bounty, but who, having served faithfully through said war, have obtained an honorable discharge.

The House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the bill "to prohibit all commercial intercourse with ports or places into, or with which, the vessels of the United States are not ordinarily permitted to enter and trade."

This bill occupied the remainder of the day in debate and amendment.

Some amendments were agreed to.

Mr. Jackson, of Va. moved to strike out the first section; tantamount to a motion to reject the bill. This motion he afterwards withdrew for the present, to enable Mr. Forsyth to propose amendments.

Mr. Forsyth then moved to amend the bill by striking out the whole of it, and substituting in lieu thereof sundry sections for imposing discriminating duties on imports and tonnage, in cases in which the bill now under consideration contemplates exclusion or prohibition.

This amendment was under consideration when the committee rose and reported progress, and The House adjourned.

TRUMBULL'S PAINTINGS.

The subject which occupied the larger part of the sitting of the House of Representatives on the 27th ult. was the joint resolution which has already passed the Senate, for authorizing the president to employ Col. Trumbull, the distinguished American artist, to execute four paintings commemorative of the principal events of the revolution. The debate was desultory, but pleasing, and occasionally animated by flashes of eloquence. The resolution was passed by a very large majority, and no doubt will receive the approbation of the president.

The subjects spoken of for these national paintings are, the declaration of independence by the Congress; the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga; the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown; and the resignation of his sword to Congress by General Washington, at Annapolis. The size of the pictures is proposed to be 12 feet by 18; the figures to be as large as life.

Judging from one or two of these paintings, on a small scale, now exhibited in the Hall of Representatives, these great historical paintings, when executed, will do credit to the artist and to his country.—*Nat. Intel.*

MILK-WEED AND BLOOD-ROOT.

Important discoveries in dyeing.—Mr. Carritat has communicated to the society for the encouragement of manufactures, some discoveries of Mr. George Terytorrens, a Swiss dyer, of the importance of *milk-weed* and *blood root*, plants which abound in the northern States, in the formation of a perfect blue dye. The following is an extract from Mr. C.'s communication:

"*Pastel*, or *woad*, on which a treatise, translated from the French, has just been published in Boston, is well known and familiar to Mr. Terytorrens, not as having cultivated the plant himself, which, however, he frequently saw and observed on the soil; nor manufactured, though he is also acquainted with the process—but as having only employed its product for dyeing, as made by the French and English. Its quality, and its indispensable use with indigo, to obtain the deep rich and superfine blue color, will then be the sole ground of his remarks now.

"Without pastel, or a substance perfectly analogous, according to him, there is no possibility of dyeing deep unchangeable blue, let the materials be what they will, of a superior quality. As this plant is not indigenous to the United States, and has in Europe been considered, by the learned, among many of similar nature, as deserving the preference, the treatise concerning it, and especially the success of the experiments made here for cultivating the same, must of course be regarded as most precious and valuable acquisitions. This is the whole Mr. Terytorrens thinks necessary, or wishes to say at present on the subject of pastel.

"But, by either the natural bent of his talents, necessity, or chance, he has, by repeated experiments and practice, made discoveries in this country, which, for about two years past, have enabled him to dye in deep fine blue of at least as good

quality, without pastel at all. The fact is, that the plant called *milk weed*, or *silk grass*, which grows wild in the States, supplies him constantly with a product exactly analogous to that resulting from pastel. He has even now brought several barrels of it to New-York for sale, and he is ready to submit it to fair trial.

"Another of his discoveries relates to the use of *madder* in the preparation of the dye for deep blue woollens. The *blood root* was tried by him, as an indigenous substitute for that purpose, and has been found even more satisfactory than madder itself.

"By other experiments he also discovered that the blood root can give a fine orange color to wool.

"With an equal success he obtained this color on cotton, when in a state of preparation for being dyed in India red.

"He puts it likewise out of doubt that he can dye with blood root the most brilliant scarlet color on cotton, by the addition of madder. But time and circumstances did not allow him to pursue his experiments, which he does not, however, lose sight of, and will continue as soon as his situation will permit him."

From the Petersburg Intelligencer.

ICE HOUSES,

And the freezing of Water, Wine, Spirits, &c.

One of the greatest luxuries, and preservers of the health in this climate during the hot months of summer, is ice. It is therefore with pleasure we observe the ice houses are multiplying in this, and indeed all our towns, and that there are few country gentlemen without them. But the air pumps, constructed by professor Leslie of Edinburgh, for the freezing of water and other fluids, appears to us more convenient and cheaper for family purposes than an ice house. We understand that this apparatus is sold in London for five guineas, sufficiently large for freezing a gallon of water in ten minutes. Mr. Leslie's apparatus has this superior advantage, that ice can be formed of any liquid whatever, besides that the ice which is formed from water by Mr. Leslie's pump is much purer than that of the ordinary ice house. At an entertainment given last summer in Bath, it is said that the wine was handed round frozen in the shape of small bunches of grapes.

NEW CHANNEL OF COMMERCE.

From the Huntsville Republican.

We take great pleasure in laying the following communication before the public; it is on a subject of the greatest importance to the community. The produce of all the upper and middle country, instead of passing along the meandering channels of the Tennessee and Ohio rivers into the Mississippi, will hereafter be transported to the nearest navigable waters of the Tombigbee and Alabama rivers, and thence to the Mobile. If from Huntsville to the falls of the Black Warrior be only 120 miles over a winding road and can be travelled by loaded wagons in eight days, and if from the Mobile a cargo can be brought to the falls in 20 days, while the country is yet unimproved, and scarcely settled, how much shorter will the distance, and how much sooner will the trip be performed when the roads will be straightened and improved, and the navigation of these rivers opened and the obstructions removed.

The merchant, instead of shipping his goods from New York and Philadelphia to Charleston and Savannah, and from thence transporting them by land to Ross's on the Tennessee river, a route experimentally known to be fraught with delay, hazard and loss, will hereafter ship directly to the Mobile, or to some designated port on the Tombigbee or Alabama, from whence there is an excellent keel boat navigation to the falls of the Black Warrior. From Cuba to Mobile is said to be about three days sail; from Mobile to the falls of the Black Warrior is 16 or 20 days travel, and from the falls to Huntsville only eight days over an excellent road; so that in 25 or 30 days a cargo might be brought from the Havana to Huntsville. It is evident then, that our sugars, wines, liquors and groceries of every kind, will come much cheaper to us from New Orleans, or any of the West India Islands by way of Mobile and up the Black Warrior in 25 or 30 days than those which we receive in three, four or six months up the Mississippi, Ohio and Tennessee rivers. Our acquaintance with Captain Crump, who has frequently traversed the country from Huntsville to Mobile, induces us to rely implicitly on the truth of his statements and the correctness of his calculations.

Messrs. Editors.—To gratify public curiosity, and to give information deemed interesting to our citizens, I have been requested to give you a memorandum of my late trip to Mobile, and the navigation of the Tombigbee, and (as far up as the falls of) the Black Warrior river. I left home about the 1st of September for Mobile, and on my way engaged with captain Bacon to take charge of my boat, &c. which I procured at Mobile, drawing about two feet water when loaded; at St. Stephens the cargo was completed of some articles that could not be purchased below. I accompanied the boat about eight miles, to see her safe over Megrois Shoals, a place said to be dangerous in passing over loaded boats; there was at that time a flood in the river, and we had little or no difficulty in getting through. Captain Bacon states that he was 20 days coming from Mobile to the falls of the Black Warrior, including five or six days of delay. The impediments in the rivers are trifling to such a boat as mine, which is about 35 feet in length. The cargo consisting of brown and Havana white sugars, coffee, rum, wine, oranges and a few dry goods, arrived at the falls in good order: two wagon loads of sugar, wine, coffee and oranges I brought to Huntsville; and it is remarkable that out of one thousand oranges not more than half a dozen spoiled. In eight days the wagons reached this place from the falls of the Black Warrior, over a road three fifths of which is level and the balance not much broken; not more than three hills of consequence are recollected, and a four horse team can easily draw two thousand weight up either of them. There has been very little labor bestowed in cutting out the road, and I discovered that by turning it a little from its windings, it could be greatly improved; the distance I suppose from Huntsville to the falls of the Black Warrior is about 120 miles. It is evident the distance can be much shortened by straightening the road.

Yours, very respectfully,

JAMES O. CRUMP.

Huntsville, 6th Dec. 1816.

From the New-York Mercantile Advertiser.

AUSTIN'S ASIATIC ANTIQUITIES.

The Chaldean antiquities noticed in one of our former papers, continue to attract the attention of the curious. Many are the witnesses of the impressions made in the cement by the straw which was mingled with it; and of the black hue and pungent smell of the bitumen, which is a component part of the mortar. Even the straw itself, which Capt. Austin took with his own hands from the tower of Nimrod, situated about twelve miles west of Bagdad, seems as fresh and entire as if it was the product of the last season.

The inscriptions on the bricks have been correctly copied by that able antiquarian, Sir C. H. Smith. The character has been pronounced by our learned Oriental scholar, Baron L'Escallier, to have no analogy to Persian or Sanscrit. Engravings have been made by Anderson, in his best manner, and they will be distributed to the literati in the United States and elsewhere. They have no affinity to the *Irish Ogham*, with which they have been compared. The proprietor has liberally granted to Dr. Mitchell the liberty of presenting one of the *Babylonian Bricks*, and a sample of the *Nimrod Straw*, to the Literary and Philosophical Society of New-York. This has accordingly been done, and the articles with the prints of the characters, placed on the table of their elegant hall, in the New-York Institute.

There is reason to hope that Henry Meigs, Esq. has succeeded in extricating this interesting piece of antiquity from a part of its mystery. He has possessed himself of the copy of the *Grand Dictionary of the Chinese, French, and Latin Tongues*, edited by Dr. Guignes, and published at great expense by the Imperial mandate of Bonaparte. Among many other books with which Mons. Férussac de Gelone has enriched our country, is a copy of this extraordinary performance. By a careful comparison of the keys and characters, with those on the bricks from the plains of Shinar, Mr. Meigs has outstripped all those who have preceded him in this research, and derived a partial interpretation, which unites probability with sense.

One inference from this inquiry is that the Babylonian characters are more ancient than the Chinese; and that the latter were derived from the former.

Another is, that a brick with its inscription, was considered an "Immortal Book."

A third disclosure is, that the inscription upon the brick from the tomb of Daniel the Prophet, seems to be an eulogy on that great man, for the wisdom of his administration under Nebuchadnezzar, Darius, and Cyrus, in teaching the people to irrigate their lands with the water of the rivers, and thereby enabling them to procure an abundance of rice for food.

BURNING SPRINGS.

About three quarters of a mile east of Portland, on Lake Erie, in a small stream, which in the lapse of time, has worn an irregular trough, of ten feet in depth, and of greater width, into a body of soft argillaceous slate—At the bottom of this trough, in a situation of romantic scenery, about sixty rods from the Lake, there are several apertures, from which continually issues an inflammable gas. The writer of this article lately visited this spot, at a time when there was but little water in the brook. He found one of the apertures

covered with a flame eighteen inches high; and by putting a blaze to two or three other apertures, the gas immediately caught and flashed like spirits of wine. The heat is sufficient to make water boil. The stones placed about the spring found on fire, were nearly red hot. At one of these apertures, a circular hole of about one quarter of an inch in diameter, a current of air, like that from the nose of a bellows, was constantly emitted.—A strong scent is perceived in approaching these gaseous springs, not unlike that which issues from a foaming pit coal.—*Allegany Magazine.*

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC SUMMARY.

FOREIGN.

In the London papers there is an account given of Napoleon's bad humor, and how he has ordered all his plate to be broken to pieces, and sold for cash; but very few articles in these papers on this subject are to be relied upon as to their truth. Both in England and France, the price of grain is very high; and the people of Toulouse being very hungry, became very turbulent; but the army there, as in the other country, are always brought in to quiet disturbers of the peace; the bayonet is an excellent peace-maker.

In the East Indies, every means, fair or foul, are taken to *subsidize* the count y princes, or rajahs, and take them into the protection of the British government. Lord Moira, (the hero of South Carolina in the revolutionary war) was marching with an army of six thousand men to form a *treaty of friendship* with the rajah of Tipore! No wonder the emperor of China looks with a jealous eye on the *friendship* of England.—*Balt. Amer.*

Bordeaux, Nov. 26.—By a late decision of the director of the customs, foreign vessels which sail from ports of France, to the island of St. Domingo, under the license of the minister of marine, with a cargo, the produce or manufactures of this country, are subject only to the port charges laid upon national vessels; and their return cargoes from that island are admitted as if imported in French vessels.

"This arrangement," says a letter, "is intended to favour the intercourse with that island, and gives advantages which I beg leave to recommend to your attention."

New-York, Jan. 25.—By the arrival yesterday of the ship William, Capt. Smith, in 58 days from Cadiz, we learn verbally, that, when Capt. S. sailed, a force of 10,000 men, under Gen. O'Donald, were assembled at St. Mary's, waiting for transports, to embark for South-America, to proceed against the patriots. They had detained all the British vessels in Cadiz and the adjacent ports for that purpose.

Several Buenos Ayres privateers were cruising off Cadiz and Malaga. They had made great havock among the Spanish homeward bound merchantmen, having captured about 29 sail during the month of November.

War in St. Domingo.—The schooner Susan, Capt. Prentiss, left Port-au-Prince on the first inst. Captain P. states that hostilities between Christophe and Petion were about to be renewed; that the former was on his march to Port-au-Prince, and was within 30 miles of that place; and that the latter had despatched a force of 6,000 men to give battle to the enemy. It was supposed that the battle would be fought on the day the Susan sailed.

Extract of a letter from a respectable house to a merchant in Baltimore, dated New-Orleans, Dec. 26.

"It is with pleasure I announce to you the news received by the Calypso, Captain Boyle, from Galvestown—General Vittoria de Guadalupe, with about 2,000 men under his command, and within six leagues of Boquilla de Piedras, between Halappa and Pont el Rey, has gained a victory over the royalists, and taken, it is said, a million of dollars from them."

General Vittoria has taken, besides, a convoy of two millions of dollars, despatched under a strong escort from Mexico to Vera Cruz.

The brig that was taken by the Venezuelan privateer Jupiter, and sent to Galvestown, is expected here every moment. The court of admiralty, having ascertained that she was taken in the waters of the United States, determined to send her to New-Orleans, and restore her to the proper owner.

Extract of a letter from an officer of the United States brig Spark, dated on-board the U. States frigate Java, Gibraltar Bay, 8th Nov. 1816, to his brother in Charleston.

"The brig Spark, I fear, is lost. We were all laying in the harbor of Malaga—I was on board this ship on a visit, when the fleet got under weigh, and I could not get on board of my vessel—she has not yet arrived, having been 14 days; we have been laying here eight days, and have had no news of her."

DOMESTIC.

William Lee, Esq. (late consul at Bordeaux) is appointed accountant of the war department, in the place of the late Col. Lear.

Mr. Mazereau is appointed secretary of state for this State by Jacques Villere, governor.—*Letter from Orleans.*

The following persons were appointed, on Monday last, to be Cashiers of the Branch Banks, established by the Bank of the United States, in the City of Washington, in Cincinnati, Ohio, and in Lexington, Kentucky:

Washington, Richard Smith;

Cincinnati, Garsham Worth, of Albany;

Lexington, J. H. Morton Solomon, of Philadelphia.

In the Poughkeepsie Herald there is an account of the most atrocious crime that we ever recollect to have heard of. A man of the name of Hezekiah Wood murdered his own brother, gave information against his father as the perpetrator of the crime, testified to the act, and thus procured his father to be condemned and executed. He has lately died, and on his death-bed he confessed the whole.

New-York Legislature.—A bill is contemplated to be brought before this assembly, to abolish imprisonment for debt; and to punish frauds against creditors.

Finances of New-York.—The receipts of 1816, and balance in the treasury, Jan. 1, 1817, were \$2,669,554. Expenditures \$2,008,601—leaving a balance in the treasury of \$60,458.

Mahlon Dickerson is appointed a Senator in Congress from the State of New-Jersey, after the 4th of March next, in the place of Mr. Condict, whose term then expires.

Destruction by Lightning.—An elegant Church, which was built the last Summer, in the town of Fitz-William, in Vermont, was struck with lightning on the 18th inst. and entirely consumed.

An Earthquake was severely felt an Milledge-

ville, (Geo.) on the 10th inst, so violent, that the bell in the cupola of the state house rung several times.

At Vincennes a severe shock of an Earthquake was felt on the 16th of December.

It is said that the exercises in Princeton College are suspended on account of a mutiny among the students. The Chinese think it the fault of governors when insurrection breaks out among subjects.

Pennsylvania Banks.—It appears by a document, published in the Philadelphia papers, that there are, in the State of Pennsylvania, forty-eight incorporated, and twenty-two unincorporated banks—making no less than seventy banks now in operation in that State!

Charles T. Billings, for whom a reward of \$2,000 had been advertised in the New-Orleans papers, has been apprehended at the Balize by a soldier. He had \$30,000 in his possession.

The Venezuela armed schooner Jupiter (which sailed without paying pilotage, or giving an order for it) captured, within musket shot of the Bar, the Spanish brig La Regna de los Angeles, Captain Roca, from Campeachy, bound to New-Orleans, and Spanish schooner Hipolite, Captain Ventura Marias, from Campeachy and Vera Cruz, also bound to New-Orleans—the crews of the two vessels were landed at the Balize, except the captains, who are detained on board the privateer.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have received the complimentary copies of Brackenridge's History of the Late War, published by J. Cushing, Baltimore; and Brackenridge's Views of Louisiana, printed by Shaeffer and Maund, Baltimore. We shall, as desired, give reviews of them in our next succeeding numbers, or, as soon as possible—and, the more cheerfully, as we can conscientiously speak of them in a manner that, we presume, will be satisfactory to all who are interested in their success. We shall hereafter attend occasionally to the business of reviewing; and in such matters it must always be understood that, though we shall not be unthankful for the copies of books presented to us, such favours can make no difference in regard to our decisions: yet we may sometimes, at particular request, forbear, where justice can allow no alternative between censure and silence.

Juvenal's favour is on hand. Though we regard as indignantly as he does the presumptuous, impious language lately used by Mr. B. Hardin in the House of Representatives; yet we cannot admit, for publication, the personal abuse bestowed so diffusively upon him. We cannot consider him so insignificant, ignorant and ungentelemanly; so destitute of talents, so despised and depraved as Juvenal represents him to be. We are willing to believe that his remarks fell from him inadvertently in the warmth of debate; but we would have admitted the censure cast upon him had it applied only to that display of folly.